

PF-2894
Amendment dated 09/22/2005

09/983,041

01450013aa
Reply to office action mailed 07/13/2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-55 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 30, 39 and 48 are canceled and claims 1-5, 8, 12-20, 23, 25, 27-29, 31-36, 38, 40-45, 47 and 49-54 are amended for the Examiner's consideration. The foregoing separate sheets marked as "Listing of Claims" shows all the claims in the application, with an indication of the current status of each.

In the specification, the paragraphs beginning at page 1, line 4; page 1, line 10, and continuing to page 1, line 22; page 2, line 12; page 3, line 17, and continuing to page 4, line 17; page 4, line 22; page 5, line 16, and continuing to page 6, line 19; page 7, line 9, and continuing to page 8, line 5; page 8, line 23, and continuing to page 9, line 19; page 10, line 15, and continuing to page 11, line 15; page 11, line 21; page 13, line 15, and continuing to page 21, line 21; page 22, line 1, and continuing to page 22, line 12; page 22, line 19, and continuing to page 26, line 5; page 28, line 4, and continuing to page 28, line 22; page 29, line 11, and continuing to page 30, line 3; page 32, line 9; page 34, line 21; page 35, line 4, and continuing to page 35, line 12, including the title, and the Abstract (listed on a separate page), have been amended to correct errors in syntax and grammar. No new matter has been added.

Please note, in particular, the amendment to the title. One word ("Informations") is being amended in the title as originally stated in the specification. However, it appears that the original filing receipt contained additional errors (in spelling: "commuication" instead of "communication" in two places; and "dislaying" instead of "displaying"). It is requested that these additional errors also be corrected, and that a corrected filing receipt be issued, so that the title as amended correctly appears in the electronic records of the PTO.

The Examiner's indication that the prior §102 ground of rejection has been overcome is acknowledged with appreciation.

The Examiner maintains rejection of claims 1, 16, 29, 38 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As to claim 1, the prior amendment provided for "a plurality of terminal devices" and amended the reference to refer to "said terminal

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devices”. It is not understood what is the basis for maintaining the rejection, since there is now no reference to a single “terminal device”.

The Examiner has also expressed a concern that “retrieval of information” and “retrieval condition” are not clear. In particular, the Examiner indicates that it is not clear whether the “information” retrieved is an email or a section of an email or a keyword in a section of an email or an indication that a keyword is present in an email. The simple explanation is that a “retrieval condition” is a search condition applied to a body of information (of whatever description) that results in retrieval of items of information item, however those items are defined as such in a database. This is well understood by those skilled in the art.

It should be noted that the above corrections to the specification may provide some additional clarity. In particular, the translation provided in the original application used “information” in the singular and “informations” in the plural, with an indication that a preferred “information” was an e-mail. Thus it is clear that the applicant’s intended meaning is better translated as “information item” in the singular and “information items” in the plural. This correction has been made throughout the specification.

It should further be observed what the invention is about and what the function of “retrieval” is in implementing the invention. Basically, the invention is a mechanism for overcoming the bandwidth load on the communication system of transmitting large image and sound files (page 2, line 22, to page 3, line 6). In summary, the invention uses a table of images and sounds, the table being downloaded once rather than each time a message is transmitted over the communication system. The table is keyed to objects (words and marks) which appear in the message, as that message is transmitted without the image and sound attachments. If the keys are found in the message, then the corresponding display (image and sound) is made from the already downloaded table (page 24, line 18, to page 25, line 8). It is this search and detection of the contents of the message with reference to the keys in the table that is referred to as “retrieval”. As a consequence of this mechanism, it is no longer necessary to burden the communication system

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with bandwidth consuming image and sound files attached to each particular message. The originator of the message need only construct an appropriate table and use appropriate key words in the message.

A few comments should be made about the table. Again, the original translation used a syntax that has been corrected by the above amendment to the specification. In summary, the table contains at least one key object, each key object having at least one corresponding display method as described in the table. The example given in the specification (Figs. 5 and 8) shows several keys and two display methods (an image and a sound) for each. The above corrections in the syntax of the specification enable clarification of this table structure in the claims. Furthermore, no table as described in the specification is disclosed in the Henderson reference.

In view of the improved terminology and corresponding amendment to the claims, it is therefore believed that this ground of rejection is overcome.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-55 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by EP 0866586 to AT&T, with inventors Henderson et al., (hereafter, "Henderson") cited by applicant. Henderson provides a system for alerting a recipient to the presence of an electronic mail message, where the sender is able to control the alerting features and the recipient is able to differentiate between urgent and non-urgent messages. It should be noted that Henderson does not address the problem addressed by the present invention, namely avoiding unnecessary transmission of large image and sound files attached to messages. Further, Henderson operates by placing an escape sequence in the subject line of the message, and the effect of the escape sequence is to display the message in a window on the recipient's terminal, in accordance with sender preferences contained in the subject line following the escape sequence (Henderson, page 2, line 53, to page 3, line 4). By contrast, the present invention operates by creation of a table of keys, and use of keys in the message, where the display instructions are contained in the table. This is a very different methodology than is described in Henderson.

Accordingly, the independent claims 1, 16, 29 and 38 have been amended to clarify this distinction from Henderson. Corresponding amendments have been made

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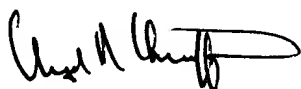
in certain of the dependent claims. It is believed that these amendments overcome the Henderson reference, and that the claims are now in allowable form.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1-55 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 703-787-9400 (fax: 703-787-7557; email: clyde@wcc-ip.com) to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



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